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SBC Statistics Mix; Most Decline

Membership

13,083,199

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention church membership topped 13 million for the first time in the denomination's history in the 1976-77 year, but losses were recorded in the number of baptisms and in enrollment for Sunday School, church training, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood.

The latest statistical reports show that church music was the only church program organization to experience a gain during 1976-77 and that total membership, number of SBC churches, mission gifts and total receipts also increased. SBC foreign mission work, not counted in SBC statistics, reported increases in membership, baptisms and churches.

The annual statistical report, compiled by the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, was taken from reports of 34,849 Southern Baptist churches.

The total number of churches in the SBC increased by 0.5 percent, to 35,255, an increase of 182. The total includes 406 non-reporting churches.

Church membership in the SBC went up 1.2 percent, 160,594, to 13,083,199. Resident membership was reported to us 9,443,431.

Baptisms in the SBC dropped by 10.1 percent, a decrease of 38,806. The 345,690 baptisms was the lowest number in the SBC since 1949, but not as low as the 342,201 projected for 1976-77 in a recent report.

Total receipts for the convention increased by 9.2 percent, more than \$151 million, to a total of \$1.8 billion. Mission gifts went up by 10.3 percent, almost \$27 million, to a total of nearly \$290 million.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, said he was "encouraged by the continued climb in churches and the gain in membership but disturbed over the 10 percent drop in baptisms for the year."

Routh said "concern for Bold Mission Thrust is demonstrated by total mission gifts of \$290 million, with the percent of the collection plate dollar (Continued on page 3)

Baptist, Jew Agree On Evangelism Packaging

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP) — Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Jewish leader agreed on the need for ethical evangelism but disagreed on the "Jews for Jesus" movement during taping of ABC-TV's network program, "Directions."

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, expressed the concern of the Jewish community for the tactics used by the Jews for Jesus.

"There's a genuine sense of moral offense at the methods and tactics used by many in the Jews for Jesus movement," Tanenbaum said. "They present themselves to Jewish young people, as another sect of Judaism. That's a deception and a fraud."

"I think frankly there's a responsibility among Christian leaders to try to indicate that . . . misrepresenting and violating the . . . things Jews hold sacred for purposes which are not really Jewish purposes needs to be . . . conformed to some higher standards," Tanenbaum asserted.

Allen agreed with Tanenbaum that deception in evangelism is immoral.

"I don't think we would dissent about the matter of packaging truthfully who (Continued on page 5)

you are or not deceiving people about what you're up to," Allen said.

"But to announce that you, out of your Jewish understandings, have come to accept Jesus as Messiah is really in tune with the stream of who we think Jesus is as the Promised One and as the Returning One," Allen said in reference to his viewpoint on Jews for Jesus. "So we would dissent probably about the legitimacy of that role but agree about the packaging and being open."

Tanenbaum emphasized, "I would respect (Jews for Jesus) as I do Dr. Allen or other evangelical Christians (Continued on page 5)

President Carter May Speak At Rally

ATLANTA (BP) — Plans have taken shape for a National Conference of Baptist Men in Atlanta, June 16, at which President Jimmy Carter is the invited speaker.

The lay meeting, scheduled the day following the three-day, 12th Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, features breakfasts for 19 vocational groups in 11 Atlanta hotels and the World Congress Center, climaxed by a 90-minute rally at the 16,500-seat Omni Coliseum.

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, sponsor of the men's conference, said a concert by an 800-voice choir of Southern Baptist men and boys from the Southeast, will open the rally which features Carter.

Paul C. McCommon, director of the music department for the Georgia Baptist Convention, is supervising recruitment of the choir and will direct it.

Open to Southern Baptist pastors and wives as well as lay couples, the meeting is one of a series of projects the Brotherhood Commission will sponsor during the next two years to interest Southern Baptists in mission opportunities, McCullough said.

Registration fee for the conference, including the breakfast and rally, is \$12.50. Admission to either or both events is by registration receipt only, McCullough said.

The four-fold purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for communicating the values of lay involvement in the Christian movement; show that Southern Baptists represent a broad spectrum of backgrounds vocationally, ethnically, culturally, and economically; make Southern Baptists aware of ways that lay persons share their Christian faith through their vocations; and emphasize forcefully the urgency of involving lay persons in missions.

At the breakfasts, scheduled to start at 7 a.m., nationally known Southern Baptist lay persons will tell how they share their Christian faith through their professions.

The breakfast groups are for Baptists in agriculture, the arts, business and professional positions, church-related vocations, communications, education, engineering, government, health services, law enforcement, legal professions, management, military, retirement, sales, positions requiring technical skills, sports, transportation, and young adults in search of a vocation for service.

McCullough said a person may register for the conference by sending name, address and preferred breakfast group and a check for \$12.50 to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tenn. 38104.

He encourages persons planning to attend the conference to arrive early and include sessions of the SBC on their schedule. Only 17 percent of the messengers to the 1977 convention were lay people, McCullough reminded. He expressed the hope the men's conference would increase the percentage to 30.



Pollard Preaches By Sea Of Galilee

Frank Pollard, "The Baptist Hour" host, stands on the shore of the Sea of Galilee to record the first of a series of "Baptist Hour" sermons from Israel and the Bible lands. The program, produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, is being broadcast in stereo. During this year it will come to listeners from the Bible lands as part of efforts to update and enhance it. "The Baptist Hour" is believed to be the first syndicated religious radio show which has originated from Israel. Pollard is pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss. The first "Baptist Hour" program recorded in Israel was aired February 12. (See Page 5 for "Baptist Hour" broadcast photo.) — Radio-TV Commission photo.

Share!

Week of Prayer for Home Missions
March 5-12, 1978
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
National Goal \$13,000,000

Easter Offering

Home Missions Goal Asks One Dollar Each

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — "Share!" is the challenge to Southern Baptists in the 1978 edition of the annual Week of Prayer and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

The emphasis reminds Southern Baptists to "Share" their service, prayer, and money for Bold Mission Thrust in the United States.

Prayer activities during March 5-12 and the Easter Offering focus on congregationalizing and evangelizing, the Home Mission Board's two-prong strategy for sharing the gospel with every person in the home territory.

The emphasis gives every church member an annual update on home missions. The offering provides slightly over half the funding for home missions. The other half is given week by week through the Cooperative Program.

Goal for the Easter Offering is \$13,000,000. The goal was deliberately set for a whopping 21 percent increase over last year's in order to provide two million dollars for Bold Mission projects. The goal only adds up to about one dollar per Southern Baptist, according to statistics.

The first \$9,163,000 of the offering is earmarked for basic support of 2,839 home missionaries and their field

ministries in 50 states and the American territories. Basic operations covered, the next \$1,837,000 will finance special projects, many of which relate to Bold Mission Thrust.

For example, \$165,000 will help fund the computerized process known as Volunteer Involvement in Missions, linking short-term volunteers with the appropriate mission project. Missionaries will get a raise from a \$300,000 allocation. Metropolitan evangelism crusades will be backed by \$30,000, and \$90,000 will fund mass media campaigns in Bold Mission Thrust.

All funds beyond the \$11,000,000 mark will be spent on evangelism and congregation-planting projects. Approximately \$500,000 will help pave the way for Mission Service Corps workers. Although Mission Service Corps volunteers pay their own way, on-site expenditures will often be needed to facilitate their work.

If the goal of \$13,000,000 is achieved, \$2,000,000 will be applied to the Mission Service Corps and other Bold Mission Thrust projects. If the offering falls short of the goal, these same two categories will be cut.

WMU leaders, including Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford, have urged Baptists who have never before

participated in a home missions offering to give at least one dollar to this campaign. "We need a broadened base of involvement to reach this goal and the greater objectives of Bold Mission Thrust," she said. "This is a task that every Southern Baptist needs to share in."

Woman's Missionary Union organizations will be sponsoring week-long prayer meetings during March 5-12. Prayer and study sessions will be built around Romans 12:6-8, concerning the Christian's obligation to share talent, work and resources under the grace of

(Continued on page 2)

HMB Names Consultant To Aid Women's Witness

ATLANTA (BP) — The first national evangelism consultant for women has been named by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Laura Fry, 29, of Miami Beach, will work in this newly established position throughout the U.S., equipping women to share Christ from a woman's viewpoint.

Ms. Fry, appointed to missionary status during the February meeting of the board's directors, will begin Feb. 20 and work from her home in Atlanta. "As a national consultant for women in evangelism," said her supervisor, Frank Crumpler, director of the board's evangelism planning and associational services, "Laura will help women know what's available from the evangelism section. She will share with women what we've developed in terms of resources and personnel available and ways of personal evangelism and witnessing."

"I see my job as equipping women from a woman's vantage point in sharing their faith," said Ms. Fry. "But when you're talking about women you're talking about a broad category

(Continued on page 2)



Fry

— career, housewife, divorcee, widow, single by choice or not by choice. The roles needed for each of these categories are different."

Ms. Fry already has contacted the

(Continued on page 2)

Piland Succeeds Washburn

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP) — Harry M. Piland, minister of education for First Baptist Church, Houston, since 1973, has been elected director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department, effective February 27.

Piland, 49, succeeds A. V. Washburn, who retired in August 1977 following 20 years as secretary of the Sunday School department. He had

(Continued on page 2)



The Volunteers-in-Missions Committee at lunch last Friday met with representatives of Hinds-Madison Association and First Church, Jackson to plan an April workshop that will offer information on volunteer mission projects. Clockwise around the table are Doug Tipps, Fred Tarpley, Paul Harrell, Marjean Patterson, and Foy Rogers.

HMB Names Consultant

(Continued from page 1)

Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., as a preliminary planning step in developing her role. WMU personnel said they were pleased to have this kind of resource person for evangelism available.

"Although I'm not a 'women's liberator', I do want to get involved in some women's groups such as the President's Women's Council and find out what the everyday woman's needs are and where she is so that we can give Christian women the tools to witness to other women," she declared.

"I want to show women that they don't just have to hand out clothes or food on Thanksgiving . . . they can do more. 'Sometimes women give a cup of water in Christ's name and they don't know what else to do . . . what else to say. I want to teach them what to do and say to witness to other women.'

Ms. Fry has been involved in missions since 1970 when she served as a summer missionary with missionary Bob Tremain, then based in Worcester, Mass.

Before accepting the Home Mission Board appointment, she worked in Christian social ministries as a US-2 missionary in Miami Beach.

A graduate of Southern Illinois University and Gordon-Conwell Seminary, she holds a master of religious education in social work from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. She is a native of DuQuoin, Ill., and is single.

Ms. Fry, who is not ordained and does not plan to be, sees the possibility that pastors and evangelism workers throughout the country might resent the fact that she, a woman, was appointed to work in evangelism.

To counter that, she maintains, "I will work as a resource person, rather than as someone whom Southern Baptists have commissioned to go out and evangelize all the women in the country. 'I will work through state evangelism directors, youth directors — through the regular evangelism channels."

Mississippians Appointed



Mr. and Mrs. Miller

ATLANTA (BP) — The Home Mission Board appointed 27 persons to mission service in its February meeting. They include seven career missionaries, 12 missionary associates and eight pastors receiving financial aid. These included two Mississippi natives; David Miller and Edward Richardson.

Named missionaries were: Thomas and Romelia Adams of Des Plaines, Ill.; Barbara Casteel of Harlingen, Tex.; David and Linda Miller of New Orleans; and Pete and Pam Owen of Denton, Texas.

The Millers will serve in Denver, where he will be director of weekday ministries. He has served as a church extension missionary for the board and as pastor for churches in Mississippi and Florida. A native of Pascagoula, Miss. he is a graduate of Mobile College and holds a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Named associates: Lincoln and Lillian Bingham of Louisville, Ky.; Bill and Lucile McDaniel of San Antonio, Texas; Frank and Olga Medina of Carpentersville, Ill.; Edward and Imogene Richardson of Puerto Rico; Daniel and Elvira Sotelo of Fresno, Calif.; and John and Mary Jean Witte of Bulverde, Tex.

The Adams will serve in Crystal Lake, Ill., where he will be church extension director of the Fox Valley Association.

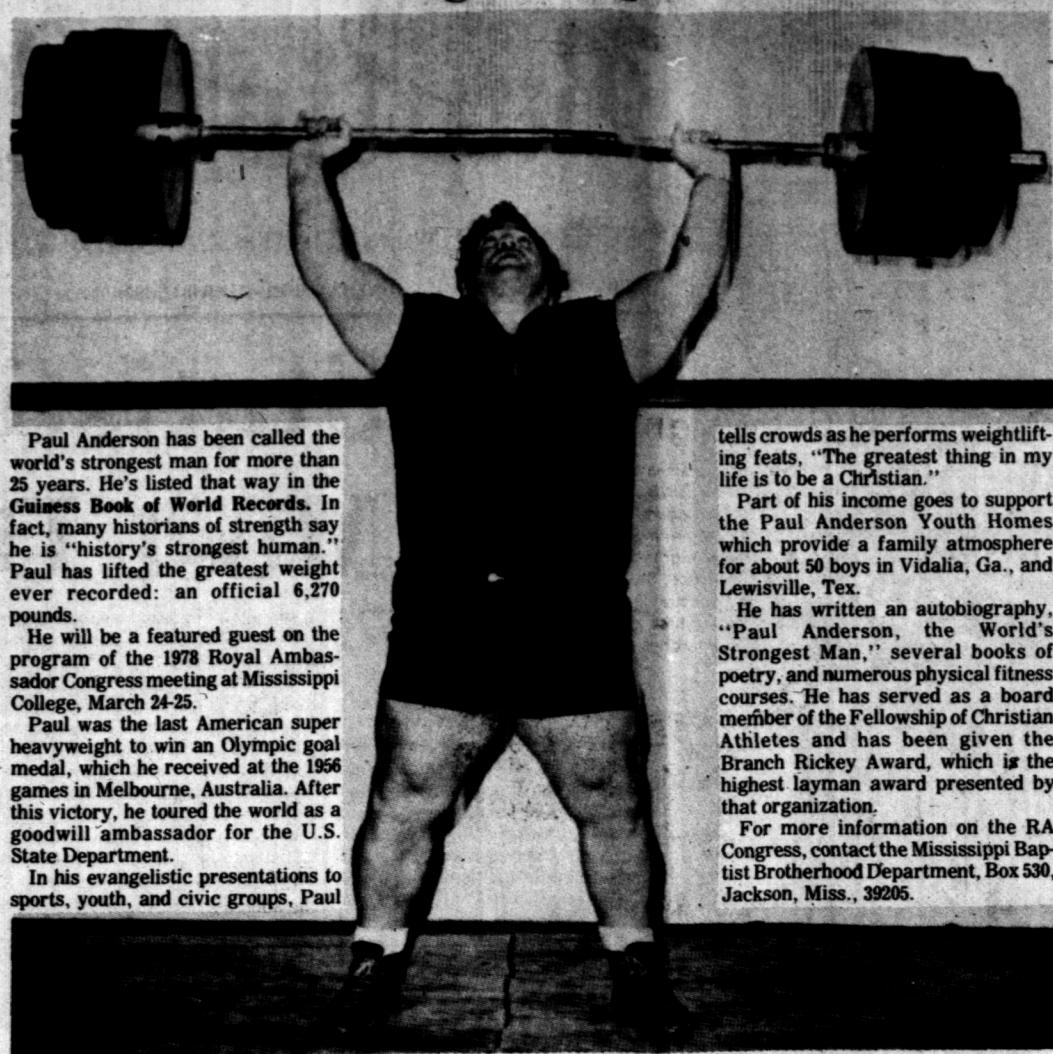
Mrs. Casteel will serve on the faculty of the Valley Baptist Academy in Harlingen as an appointed missionary of the language missions department of the board. She also has taught in Helena, Mont., and in San Juan, Puerto Rico, when she was appointed with her husband, Albert, now deceased. Her husband was pastor in Helena, Mont. before going to Puerto Rico.

The Owens will serve in Ketchum, Idaho, where he will be Christian social ministries area director for Utah.

The Richardsons will continue to live in Puerto Rico, where he will serve as church extension coordinator. Prior to appointment, Richardson, a Mississippi native, was pastor of Ceiba Baptist Church in Puerto Rico. He also has served as pastor in Florida and Mississippi.

Nashville (RNS) — Dr. Alan Walker, founder of a Christian telephone counseling service, will receive an award from the French Institute De La Vie for his pioneering work in the field. An Australian evangelist, Dr. Walker established the Life Line Telephone Ministry in Sidney in 1963 and now serves as president of Life Line International.

World's Strongest Speaks To RAs



Paul Anderson has been called the world's strongest man for more than 25 years. He's listed that way in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. In fact, many historians of strength say he is "history's strongest human." Paul has lifted the greatest weight ever recorded: an official 6,270 pounds.

He will be a featured guest on the program of the 1978 Royal Ambassador Congress meeting at Mississippi College, March 24-25.

Paul was the last American super heavyweight to win an Olympic gold medal, which he received at the 1956 games in Melbourne, Australia. After this victory, he toured the world as a goodwill ambassador for the U.S. State Department.

In his evangelistic presentations to sports, youth, and civic groups, Paul

tells crowds as he performs weightlifting feats, "The greatest thing in my life is to be a Christian."

Part of his income goes to support the Paul Anderson Youth Homes which provide a family atmosphere for about 50 boys in Vidalia, Ga., and Lewisville, Tex.

He has written an autobiography, "Paul Anderson, the World's Strongest Man," several books of poetry, and numerous physical fitness courses. He has served as a board member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has been given the Branch Rickey Award, which is the highest layman award presented by that organization.

For more information on the RA Congress, contact the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Meetings In 52 Associations To Interpret Christian Action

Christian Action will be emphasized in 52 associations in meetings scheduled for the most part on February 27 or February 28. The purpose of the seminars is to interpret the work of the Christian Action Commission and to suggest methods of involvement to those who are concerned with community morals. Current issues in the legislature affecting pornography, control of alcohol problems and similar matters will be discussed. According to J. Clark Hensley, executive director of the commission, 38 consultants are assisting in these seminars being promoted by the commission and the directors of associational missions. The confirmed dates and places follow:

February 27 — Benton/Tippah, Ashland Church; Chickasaw, Fellowship Church; DeSoto, First, Nesbit; Grenada, Airport Church; Gulfcoast, First, Long Beach; Humphrey;

Itawamba, Baptist Student Center; Fulton; Jones, Plainway Church; Lawrence, New Hebron Church; Leake, First, Carthage; Leflore, North Greenwood Church; Lincoln, First Brookhaven; Lowndes, Immanuel Church; Marion, East Columbia Church; Newton, First, Newton; Noxubee, First, Macon; Pearl River, First, Carriere; Perry, First, New Augusta; Quitman, First, Lambert; Riverside, Clarksdale Church; Tate, First, Coldwater; Union County, Glenfield Church; Washington, Associational Building, Greenville, and Vicksburg, Sparta, Corinth, Yazoo City.

February 28 — Attala, Williamson Church; Bolivar, Associational Building, Cleveland; Choctaw, Ackerman Church; Copiah, First, Crystal Springs; Covington/Jeff Davis, Associational Building, Prentiss; Franklin, Meadville Church; Greene, First, Leakesville; Holmes, First,

Lexington; Humphrey; Lamar, Baxerville Church; Lebanon; Lee, First, Tupelo; Monroe, First, Amory; Okfuskeha, Adalton Church; Panola, First, Batesville; Pontotoc, West Heights Church; Prentiss, Osborne Creek Church; Rankin, Person Church; Scott, Branch Church; Sharkey/Issaquena; Smith, Tallahatchie, Corinth Church; Walthall, New Zion Church; Warren, Bonanza, Sirloin Pit, Vicksburg; Webster, First, Eupora; and Yalobusha, First, Water Valley.

March 2 — Neshoba, Associational Office, Philadelphia.

March 6 — Jackson, Associational Office, Pascagoula.

March 13 — Lauderdale, Baptist Center, Meridian.

The following associations have already observed this emphasis: Carroll, Clarke, George, Hinds/Madison, Montgomery, New Choctaw, Pike, Sunflower and Wayne.

Interested pastors and lay persons are invited and encouraged to participate in these meetings.

TV Home Bible Study Set For Premiere

FORT WORTH — Two pilot television programs for the new Southern Baptist Home Bible Study Series were taped recently in preparation for a nationwide premiere in October 1978.

Selected television stations throughout the nation will carry the Southern Baptist produced outreach effort, which is expected to reach new people for Bible study as well as give church members additional opportunity to study contemporary topics.

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, Miss., was the Bible teaching host on the pilot programs. A portion of each program was Pollard's interpretation and discussion of the Nature of God, with strong emphasis on heavy use of the Bible by listeners as continual reference.

Music on the programs will be performed by well-known artists, such as Cynthia Clawson and Joe Ann Shelton, each of whom appeared on one of the pilot programs. Buryl Red, composer-conductor from New York, is in charge of planning music for the programs.

Printed Bible study materials, including a curriculum guide containing four or five lessons each month will be prepared and sent free to anyone requesting them.

Individuals requesting the free monthly Bible study materials will be given the opportunity to enroll as members in the Home Bible Study Series. When a member gives permission, his or her name will be referred to a local church. It is hoped that Home Bible Study Series members will eventually become members of local churches.

"I believe that it will appeal to many people who would appreciate biblical truth applied to their present situations," Cothen continued. "I think the radio-television correspondence

Bible study concept has great possibilities for Southern Baptists."

The Home Bible Study Series is not intended to replace Bible study in Southern Baptist Sunday Schools, but is designed to be supplemental to the study efforts there. Many regular Sunday School members are expected to participate in the Home Bible Study Series because of a desire for additional Bible study. Elderly, hospitalized and home-bound persons also should benefit from the program.

The Home Bible Study Program for television is being produced jointly by two Southern Baptist Convention agencies, the Sunday School Board, Nashville, and the Radio and Television Commission here. The program sound track for the television shows will be adapted for use on radio.

Printed Bible study materials, including a curriculum guide containing four or five lessons each month will be prepared and sent free to anyone requesting them.

Topics which will serve as monthly themes for the program in the first year include Nature of God, Nature of Man, Meaning of Salvation, Work of the Holy Spirit, Personal Growth, Family, Human Sexuality, Suffering, Loneliness, Need for Love, Prayer, and the Future — Hope or Shock.

Pilot tapes of the new series received strong support after a preview for trustees of the Sunday School Board at the semi-annual meeting in Nashville.

"This concept has a tremendous potential for reaching thousands of people for Christ," said Presnell H. Wood, trustee chairman and editor of the *Baptist Standard*, newspaper of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. "It's one of the finest vehicles we've had for some time."

Home Missions Goal Asks \$1

(Continued from page 1)

God. "Whoever shares with others must do it generously," the passage says.

A heavy emphasis will be placed on commitment to personal mission service as well as on giving money for support of others. The Home Mission Board has called for up to 10,000 volunteers a year to do short-term missions projects. A Bold Mission Thrust goal is to double the number of home missionaries.

Newsbriefs In The



World Of Religion

Tokyo (RNS) — Leftist groups across Japan staged protest demonstrations (Feb. 11) against reinstatement of a national holiday commemorating the legendary descent from heaven of Emperor Hirohito's ancestors 2,638 years ago. Before World War II, the holiday — National Foundation Day — was associated with militarists. The Emperor, who has officially denied any divine origins, and the Japanese government have been under pressure from conservatives to reinstate traditions scrapped under Allied rule in 1945.

Panama City, Panama (RNS) — Anglican Bishop Festo Kivengere and Michael Cassidy ended their "Africa to Panama" mission here with a rally that attracted about 1,750 persons. The final meeting of their nine-day campaign was attended by a cross section of the population of this isthmus: from a former president of the nation to an old beggar woman, blacks and whites, enlisted men in the American military services and Panama Canal Company bureaucrats, Indians, and people who speak Spanish alongside those who speak English. The mission was supported by about 90 churches in Panama and the Canal Zone, and the cooperation was described by veteran Christian workers here as the greatest inter-church effort since Billy Graham was here for a rally 20 years ago.

London (RNS) — A new national agency for Christian books — the Religious Book Foundation — has been set up here, with Anglican Archbishop Donald Coggan of Canterbury and Cardinal George Basil Hume, OSB, Archbishop of Westminster as patrons.

Houston (RNS) — Elderly people may be able to choose "food from space" under a new meal program designed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Food technology and packaging techniques developed by the NASA Johnson Space Center to feed astronauts during space flight are being applied in a pilot program to help provide balanced meals for the elderly.

\$2 Million Goal

Carey Pledges Million Before Campaign Begins

William Carey College kicked off its 1978 Development Campaign on Friday night with the announcement that \$1 million of the \$2 million goal had already been pledged.

The report was given by Campaign Chairman Paul McMullan to an enthusiastic group of nearly 350 Carey College supporters who gathered on

the Hattiesburg campus for a gala Carey Appreciation Dinner.

"We're halfway to our goal and we've only just begun!" said McMullan, president of First Mississippi National Bank and two-time Carey campaign leader. He gave special gratitude to John D. Thomas, advanced gifts chairman, and to President J. Ralph Noonester for their untiring efforts in the past month to put the campaign on an immediate road to success.

Hugh Dickens, college administrative vice-president and campaign director stated that the \$2 million will be spent for the purpose of renovating dormitories on the Hattiesburg campus, renovating the new Gulf Coast campus buildings, library development on all three campus (including the New Orleans School of Nursing) and for increased endowment funds.

It was pointed out that statistics show that the school has grown in enrollment by 135% since the last development campaign in 1973. The operating budget has increased 122%, going from \$1,800,000 to over \$4,000,000 in the past five years. Ten years ago Carey had one campus. Today there are three. Ten years ago the school offered only undergraduate work; today a large graduate program in education and in music is thriving.

"William Carey College deals with the 'holistic view of life'; that is what Christian higher education is all about," said John Claypool, featured speaker for the evening. The pastor of Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson continued, "As the product of a Christian college, I am grateful that I found, in that environment, people who understand the 'truth process' and were patient with my asking and seeking for answers."

Claypool discussed the freedom of the Christian college, by its very nature, to be as equally concerned about personal and human values as about factual information.

Featured entertainer for the dinner was Lila Noonester, daughter of President and Mrs. Noonester. Lila sang three selections. Guests from throughout Mississippi and from New Orleans, as well as numerous area friends and alumni, were welcomed by Noonester.

MRLC Meets

The Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference will hold its annual banquet at Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. James L. Travis, director of pastoral services and his staff at the Mississippi University Medical Center will present the program.

Three distinguished Mississippi religious leaders will be honored. Bishop Duncan Gray will preside.

Cape Town (RNS) — One of the few media "voices" that remain for South Africa's blacks after last Fall's banning orders from the government is a Christian weekly named "The Voice." Founded in October 1976 by the South African Council of Churches and now operated by an independent agency called The Voice Ecumenical Trust, the paper has been controversial from its very first issue.

Sonny Atkins, fulltime evangelist, New Hebron, served as ACTION director for the Grays Creek Church, Hernando during the Greater Memphis Metro Reach ACTION Campaign.

The Grays Creek Church, Roger Johns, pastor, is located in a sparsely populated rural area where it was felt most of the people were related to some church. However, the church agreed to participate in the ACTION Campaign.

With an enrollment of 183 and an attendance of 122 on Enrollment Sunday — at the conclusion of enrollment week 155 were in attendance. The Task Force and Anglers had 41 persons who went to 233 homes.

There were 56 enrolled on Enrollment Sunday with a total of 143 persons enrolled during the campaign. The Task Force discovered 56 prospective families and the pastors enrolled 25 in the pastor's class.

Atkins states, "This was a most rewarding effort on the part of these people who have proper perspective on reaching people."



Statewide ACTION Campaign Begins

"It's the smaller churches which are picking up the greatest increase," said Neil Jackson of the Baptist Sunday School Board (pictured at chalkboard). He was talking about the ACTION enrollment campaigns which the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is aiding churches to become involved in. "It's not uncommon for a church running 100 in Sunday school to enroll 50 more," said Jackson to a group of Mississippi Baptist pastors and outreach chairmen who gathered at First Baptist Church in Forest to hear ACTION explained.

ACTION, simply means that a church member invites any

person who is not already involved in Bible study on Sunday mornings to enroll in Bible study in his church. "People have discovered they can be witnesses for Christ," said Jackson, who along with state Sunday School Department staffers, led eight interpretation conferences last week, drawing 400 persons. So far, 42 Baptist associations in Mississippi have indicated they will participate in area-wide ACTION campaigns which are being suggested for September. And at least 70 churches are planning individual involvement in ACTION.

At Mississippi College

Speakers Expand Theme, "Reach Out And Touch"

A week long series of special events and guest speakers marked the annual Mississippi College BSU Spiritual Enrichment Week, Feb. 13-16 on the college campus.

The Spiritual Enrichment Week theme, "Reach Out and Touch," was highlighted by three guest speakers. Margaret (Mrs. Clark) Hensley, Jackson housewife and author; Jan Daehnert, an associate of the Division of Student Work, Baptist General Convention of Tex.; and Dan Bagby, pastor of Calvary Church, Lafayette, Ind., shared speaking responsibilities for the week.

Following the opening meeting, Monday, which included an address by each of the speakers, and a presentation by the Celebration Singers, workshops were held in the Hall of Fame Room on varied topics. Bagby spoke on the need for practical involvement in the lives of others, Daehnert spoke on the cost of caring, and Mrs. Hensley addressed the issue of self image.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Hensley spoke on communication in the home. At the Valentine Banquet that evening, Bagby spoke on "Marriage-Rated X". Music was furnished by First Church of Jackson.

Wednesday, Daehnert spoke in chapel on "Reaching Out — Reaching In." Mrs. Hensley spoke at a ladies luncheon on "The Young and the Restless" followed by dorm discussions later that evening. Dorm discussions included "What it means to be Committed," with Bagby; "Caring Enough to Confront," with Daehnert; and "You Don't Have to be a Star," with Mrs. Hensley.



Margaret Hensley, Jackson housewife and author, spoke to women at Mississippi College during a "ladies luncheon," one of the activities marking "Spiritual Enrichment" week at the college (M.C. Photo)

Blue Mountain Reaches \$500,000 Goal Six Months Ahead Of Time

Blue Mountain College has announced that the first priority goal of \$500,000 in its Second Century Forward Fund has been reached six months ahead of schedule.

In making the announcement, school president E. Harold Fisher said, "Support for this first phase of our development campaign came not only from Mississippi and the region, but from across the nation."

Items included in this initial effort were curriculum development, student recruitment, expansion of library holdings and building improvements. Blue Mountain experienced a 14% rise in enrollment last Fall with recruitment for next year now in full swing.

James Bryant, BMC Director of Development, pointed out, "We are excited about reaching this first plateau

ahead of schedule and can now turn our attention to Phase II which is set at \$2.4 million over the next 8 years."

Phase II items of the development campaign include a continued strengthening of the curriculum, upgrading of the physical facilities and to private for the ongoing needs of the college.

"To accomplish this first priority goal ahead of schedule is a real tribute to the remarkable efforts of our volunteer committees around the country," President Fisher said. "In particular, Joe Jack Hurst of Jackson who chaired the campaign; Oscar Shannon of Ripley, who provided leadership in the Ripley area; Joe Guyton of Blue Mountain and Henry Whitfield of Tupelo . . . all of these men, along with so many others who worked to make this part of the drive a success."

The participation from alumnae, faculty and staff is unmatched and indicates their commitment to provide a value-based education."

Bryant indicated that regional steering committees will be named in the next few weeks to coordinate Phase II of the campaign.

Perhaps God was getting Southern Baptists ready for the BOLD MISSION THRUST. If it is to be, it is up to me!

Student Easter Retreats Set

Church Recreation Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, is sponsoring retreats for high school and college students during Easter Week at Glorieta and at Ridgecrest. Retreats will begin Thursday, March 23 with the evening meal and conclude with a sunrise service and breakfast on Sunday, March 25.

At Glorieta, Don Mattingly will be directing assisted by Phil Briggs and Rosemary Hoover. At Ridgecrest, Pogo (Frank Hart Smith) will be in charge with Jim Knott of Two Rivers Baptist in Nashville and Charles Downey of Texas assisting.

Surveys

Needed

Feb. 28 is the deadline for receiving the salary survey forms sent to all Mississippi Baptist church staff members by Clifton Perkins of the Mississippi Baptist Church/Minister Relations Department.



Blue Mountain College president E. Harold Fisher (left) congratulates Oscar Shannon of Ripley, a member of the steering committee for the school's development campaign, on reaching the first priority goal of \$500,000 six months ahead of schedule. The school announced immediate plans to move into the second phase of the campaign which is set to raise \$2.4 million over the next 8 years. Funds from the campaign are being used to broaden the curriculum, expand library holdings, increase enrollment and improve buildings.

SBC Statistics Mix; Most Decline

(Continued from page 1)
for missions climbing from 17.0 in 1976 to 17.1 in 1977."

A separate report from the Foreign Mission Board revealed that membership in overseas churches related to Southern Baptist mission work topped the 1 million mark with 1,071,922 members, a growth of 165,380. Southern Baptist missions related work also recorded 98,715 baptisms, an increase of 14,266. Overseas churches increased by 516, bringing the total to 8,533. (Baptists overseas retain their national identity instead of becoming "Southern" Baptists.)

The drop in Sunday School enrollment follows five consecutive years of gains, and directly follows an enrollment increase of 177,000 in 1976-77.

The decrease in Sunday School enrollment of 0.4 percent represented a loss of more than 27,000 members, re-

sulting in a total enrollment of 7,430,931.

Church training enrollment was off 3.9 percent from the 1975-76 total, to an enrollment of slightly less than 1.8 million, reflecting a loss of 72,227.

Roy T. Edgemon, newly elected director of the church training department at the Sunday School Board, said he believed "last year's decline in church training marked the beginning of the end of a downward trend in enrollment. I feel that pastors are now recognizing that the failure to train our people in Bible doctrine, discipleship and ministry is the cause of an erosion in all of Baptist life," Edgemon said.

Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) enrollment dropped by 1.8 percent in 1976-77, a loss of 20,949 to a total of 1,118,085, while Brotherhood enrollment dropped 1.2 percent, or 5,672, to a total of 473,309.

In church music, the 0.7 percent increase of 9,506 brought the total enrollment to 1,382,104.

Sunday School continued to lead in the number of churches reporting an ongoing program, with a total of 34,363. Church music was reported in the second highest number of churches, with 23,428, followed closely by WMU with 23,047. Church training was reported in 21,265 churches and Brotherhood in 15,359 churches.

The uniform church letters also reported 756 church type missions and 612 other type missions started during the 1976-77 year. More than 1,000 churches reported some kind of ministry to mentally retarded persons, with a total enrollment of almost 9,000. Deaf classes have an enrollment of more than 10,000 persons in 681 SBC churches, and church libraries were reported in 18,000 churches.

Summary Of 1977 SBC Statistics

	1976-77	1975-76	Gain or Loss	Percent
Churches	35,255	35,073	182	0.5
Total Membership	13,083,199	12,922,605	160,594	1.2
Baptisms	345,690	384,496	-38,806	-10.1
Sunday School Enrollment	7,430,931	7,458,375	-27,444	-0.4
CT Enrollment	1,778,179	1,850,406	-72,227	-3.9
WMU Enrollment	1,118,085	1,139,034	-20,949	-1.8
Brotherhood Enrollment	473,309	478,981	-5,672	-1.2
Church Music Enrollment	1,382,104	1,372,598	9,506	0.7
Total Receipts	\$1,797,139,698	\$1,645,959,837	\$151,179,861	9.2
Total Mission Gifts	\$289,372,474	\$262,373,823	\$26,998,651	10.3

The Missions Task

The Genius Of The Cooperative Program

By John Alexander, Director
The Stewardship Department

Out of the frustration and deep indebtedness following the Seventy-five Million Campaign of 1919-1924, the 1925 Future Program Committee recommended the adoption of the "Cooperative Program" of Southern Baptists. Most of the early assumptions about the Cooperative Program have remained unchanged. Baptists learned early that cooperation was essential for strong world witness. Their God-given mission has outweighed the desire for individual and congregational freedom.

Cooperative efforts served to pull Baptists together in great endeavors rather than to divide them. Baptists must believe in and cooperate with one another. Through cooperation Southern Baptists have become one of the largest and strongest Christian denominations in the world. A deep commitment to missions has compelled an intensely independent people to be also intensely cooperative.

From the beginning, Southern Baptists determined to put missions first. Southern Baptists deliberately chose to put missions first in their list of priorities.

While the Seventy-five Million Campaign received only \$58,591,913 of the \$92,000,000 that was pledged to missions, it did more for Baptists than raise money. It provided a pattern for cooperation, revealed that working together Baptists can raise a lot of money, stabilized the institutional structure of the SBC, demonstrated that Baptists will go all out for a great program of advance, established a pattern for stewardship promotion, and provided the impetus and basis for the foundation of the Cooperative Program.

What has the Cooperative Program accomplished in Southern Baptist life? James Lee Powell, Jr., says, "The Cooperative Program can be credited with some remarkable achievements:

(1) It has brought into full visibility the basic genius of the convention-type concept introduced by William B. Johnson in 1845.

(2) It has opened a door to advance planning that was closed tightly before the adoption of this type of financing.

(3) It has made Southern Baptists conscious of "first fruit" giving, rather than just a haphazard gift after a stirring sermon.

(4) It has created a single and effective financial program for every part of convention life that can be promoted uniformly.

(5) It has brought a new sense of participation to every Southern Baptist in being able to share in all of the work of the denomination through undesignated giving.

(6) It has provided a new unity for Southern Baptist agencies as they have sought to work together.

Powell concludes: "These flowery words from the 1939 Executive Committee remind us not only of the genius of the founding of the Cooperative Program but also of its success to the present day:

The Cooperative Program is the greatest step forward in Kingdom finance. Southern Baptists have ever taken. It was slow and gradual in its formation. It arose out of the desires and efforts of pastors and churches to find a plan whereby all worthy denominational causes might be cared for fully and fairly without conflicting with the necessary programs and work in the churches themselves. It is believed to be sane, scriptural, comprehensive, unifying, equitable, economical, and thoroughly workable. It is based upon the assumption that all denominational causes will be included, that all agencies and institutions will cooperate in its promotion, that all pastors will represent and present all causes and seek to secure regular, proportionate and adequate support. In this way all occasions for rivalries and conflict and overlapping are removed, the offerings will come in regularly and each cause will receive and each contributing member will make fifty-two offerings a year instead of one. It is the best plan we know and it is hoped that it will increasingly receive the hearty and enthusiastic support of all our people."

Perhaps God was getting Southern Baptists ready for the BOLD MISSION THRUST. If it is to be, it is up to me!

Sunday School	HOME MISSIONS DAY IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL, MARCH 12 A Sunday School Emphasis for the Church
	MARCH 1 - MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL MINI WEEKS!, GULFSHORE See Gulfsore schedule, page 26
Church Training	CONDUCT YOUTH WEEK A special church program designed to focus on the youth of the church and to give them experience in leadership responsibilities. For complete information consult Youth Week Guide, available at the Baptist Book Store.
	COVENANT FELLOWSHIP EMPHASIS During March, conduct the training program for the Covenant Fellowship Emphasis and follow through with the visitation. Available materials are on literature order forms. Information is available from the state Church Training Department.
Church Music	RESURRECTION SING A congregation "sermon in song" for Easter. Brochure available from state Church Music Department.
	HYMN OF THE MONTH "I Know That My Redeemer Lives", Hymn #436, New Baptist Hymnal
	MARCH 1 - MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR MUSIC LEADER/ADULT WEEK, GULFSHORE See Gulfsore schedule, page 26
Brotherhood	HOME MISSION WEEK OF PRAYER AND ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING, MARCH 5-12 Program materials can be found in January-March issue of Brotherhood Builder, Baptist Men's Handbook and Royal Ambassador age level materials. Mission graded series studies may be purchased from Baptist Book Store.
Woman's Missionary Union	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR HOME MISSIONS AND ANNIE ARMSTRONG OFFERING, MARCH 5-12 Program materials for week to be found in March age-level magazines while plans for churchwide participation will be found in January-March issue of Dimension magazine. Free materials such as posters, offering envelopes, prayer guides, etc. for church use mailed to WMU director in mid-January. Additional copies may be ordered from state WMU office.
Evangelism	EVANGELISM STUDY Study the book, <i>The Evangelistic Church</i> by Havlik. Available at Baptist Book Store.
Stewardship	REMINDERS Send quarterly report of contributions to all members. Enclose a stewardship tract and "Thank You" folder. Show stewardship filmstrips in Worship services or department assemblies. Plan to observe Cooperative Program Day, April 16. Order materials from your state Stewardship Department.
Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries	MARCH 1 - MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE PASTOR/CHURCH PROGRAM WEEK, GULFSHORE See Gulfsore schedule, page 26.
Christian Action Commission	CONSIDER A FAMILY LIFE ENRICHMENT REVIVAL Write the Christian Action Commission, Baptist Building, Jackson, for planning suggestions.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Home Missions Week . . .

Bold Goals Outlined

Southern Baptists have been talking about Bold Missions for almost two years now, and a big challenge for boldness is upon us. It is the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions, and the goal this year is \$13 million. This is 21 per cent more than last year's goal, and that indeed is a step in the direction of boldness. It is, however, only about \$1 per Southern Baptist.

The Annie Armstrong Offering goes along with the annual week of prayer for home missions, set this year for March 5 to 12. The prayer is just as important as the offering.

The theme this year is "Share." The scripture passage for Bible study during the week of prayer is Romans 12:6-8.

During this time of Bold Missions

emphasis Southern Baptists are being asked to share themselves as well as their money and their prayers. We are seeking to make a Christian witness available to everyone in the world by the end of the century, and it will take many volunteers at work as well and the time of prayer and the gifts of money to get the job done.

Traditionally the home mission emphasis doesn't receive as much attention as does foreign mission emphasis. Yet the lost are just as lost in America as they are in Taiwan. The people, in many cases, where home missionaries serve have no more concept of what to do about their lost condition than do those in Taiwan. Very likely, some of the places where home missionaries serve present more possibilities of physical danger than is to be found in

Taiwan.

The first \$9,163,000 of the offering will go to take care of the basic support of 2,839 home missionaries who work in 50 states. We have them in Mississippi. Home missionaries are appointed in conjunction with state conventions and work under the direction of the state conventions.

The next \$1,837,000 will be used to finance several special projects, many of them relating to Bold Mission Thrust.

All above the \$11 million figure will be used for evangelism and for beginning new congregations.

Bold giving must be a factor in Bold Mission Thrust if the expectations of the concept are to be reached. The giving without the praying, however, will be empty.

ROAD TO RECOVERY by Joe W. Burton (Broadman, 168 pp.) The dramatic story of the resurgence of Southern Baptists after the Civil War, seen especially in the work of Isaac T. Lichenor, who was elected Secretary of the Home Mission Board in 1882, and served for the remainder of the century. However, the book tells of the events before 1882, and of other names sacred in Southern Baptist history, names such as Joshua Levering and Lansing Burrows. Some wondered in the period after the War if the little convention could even live, but these and other God given leaders determined that it would, and it did, destined to become the great convention that it is today. Joe W. Burton has gone to be with his Lord, but his love for Southern Baptist history, has helped preserve that history for us, as it is one in this volume.

PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD by Michael L. Speer (Broadman, 167 pp., \$4.95) A book for the Christian man who cares about the image he presents, here is a guide on how to dress well (even on a low budget), plus tips on grooming, physical fitness, and basic manners. It includes ideas for care of hair, hands and nails, daily grooming, and even how to pack your clothes and accessories for travel. Speer is associate director of the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission.

WINGS OF JOY by Joan Winmill Brown (Fleming H. Revell, \$7.95, 191 pp.) This beautiful book would make a good gift for someone. Brown has collected prose, poetry and Scripture that have carried special personal meaning for her during difficult times. Selected pieces come from great writers like Leo Tolstoy, Peter Marshall, Robert Louis Stevenson, William Shakespeare, Corrie ten Boom, and William Wordsworth. Topics included are age and youth, beauty, Bible, character, Christmas, comfort, Easter, God, and home.

RABBONI . . . WHICH IS TO SAY, MASTER by W. Phillip Keller (Revell, \$8.95, 320 pp.) RABBONI is the product of Keller's long years of personal study, meditation, reading and listening. The author of A SHEPHERD LOOKS AT PSALM 23 once again breathes life into the Bible accounts — taking time to examine the thoughts and motives of the characters involved. Jesus Christ in love, in truth, in power — reaches out through these pages.



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

The place was north Georgia and the face beside me was that of Betty Smith, office secretary in the Department of Student Work. We were returning from a writers' conference in North Carolina and on the spur of the moment decided that we would like to drive through Helen on our way back to Jackson. That Georgia town is famous because it was built to resemble a town in the Alps.

We would not have time to stop very long, and I don't really think Betty wanted to go through there as much as I did, but I insisted and we drove in that direction.

Road construction confused us and we missed the first major turn. At the next town, on the Georgia border, we looked at the map and saw a short cut to Clayton. If we could spend the night at Clayton, then it would not be far to Helen next morning.

We forgot something though. Mountain miles are a lot longer than regular miles, and the shortcut was more like 40 miles than the 20 the map said it was. By the time we got to Clayton it was nearly nine o'clock, and every hotel and motel in town was full — a doctors' convention had come to town. Hungry had been attacked us with full force, but every restaurant we saw was closed. Round and round the town we drove until finally we spotted an old-fashioned hotel — the kind that had a wide front porch with rocking chairs. The hotel rooms were full but the dining room was still open. At least, the door of the dining room was open, but the food had been taken back to the kitchen.

The proprietor said yes she would sell us some food, and beckoned for us to follow her. She gave us a couple of clean plates and we helped ourselves to the food on the cart in the middle of a kitchen littered with pots and pans and dirty dishes.

We ate in the dining room where no one had bothered to brush the crumbs from the dirty red tablecloth. A few local residents gathered at the other tables to watch us. It might not sound like it to you, but that place was a haven for us when we were tired, and the food was delicious!

Betty suggested that we drive down the highway toward Atlanta, and stop at the next town. Then next morning we would try to find Helen. She was tired and it was my turn to drive, but just then it began to rain. I tried — I really did — but I cannot see the road ahead.

when it's raining at night. In a few miles I was so terrified of hitting someone that I stopped and told Betty I could not go on. In spite of her weariness there was nothing for her to do but drive.

At the next town, there were no motels. Or the next. Or the next. It was getting very late, and the rain was pouring. When the rain stopped, the fog closed in, and we could see neither ahead or behind. We were afraid to stop by the road and sleep, but I could not drive and Betty was nearing complete exhaustion. I had decided to ask the Lord to get us out of this mess I had gotten us into — and I expect Betty had been talking to Him, too.

At the fourth place we stopped, a very nice desk clerk, like an angel sent from heaven, offered to help. He called a motel in the next town — only six miles, he assured us — and found that they had a room — one room. They promised faithfully to save it "for two women from Jackson, Mississippi." That was the most beautiful room I have ever slept in.

We had traveled so far away from Helen that we didn't have time to go there the next day. I have not been there yet. If we had planned this trip ahead, made reservations, and studied the map, we might have seen Helen.

A lot of jobs, at home, at church, at work, don't get done, or are done in sloppy fashion, because we don't plan ahead.

On The Moral Scene

DRUG TRAFFIC — "Dwindling heroin supplies have reduced the number of American addicts from 800,000 to 500,000 in the past year. . . . The decrease in imported heroin is the result of more effective control measures, especially by Mexico. . . . Since heroin is becoming less available, cocaine is rapidly developing into the drug of choice by users. In 1976 approximately 11 tons of cocaine entered the U. S. Cocaine is classified as non-addictive, but its abuse can quickly lead to death." (Parade, January 1, 1978)

No Ambiguity . . .

Trustees Serve Convention

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina seems to be at a point of conflict with the trustees of Wake Forest University, a school which the convention owns.

The conflict seems to come in relation to that little word, "owns." The trustees would seem to want to point out that the university charter says that the trustees "own and operate" the university and therefore they could do anything they would decide to do.

The conflict arose because the trustees had accepted a federal grant of \$85,000 to help build a \$300,000 greenhouse. The convention told the trustees to return the federal money since it would not "render a service," which is a convention requirement for accepting federal funds. The trustees

decided to keep the money anyway. The *Baptist Record* has printed a couple of stories related to this situation, the latest being in the Jan. 19 issue.

The president of the convention, C. Mark Corts, has declared the trustees violated their charter, which says that they must operate the institution "in accordance with the policies adopted by the convention."

Pasco M. Bowman, dean of the Wake Forest law school, on the other hand, says he feels there is an ambiguity in the role of the trustees. He says while on the one hand there seems to be something that would say the trustees are subject to the will of the convention, on the other hand there is a legal norm that declares the trustees are

legally responsible for the affairs of the corporation.

There is no ambiguity, however, unless North Carolina has a trustee set up that is different from the normal concept of such matters. The convention has elected those trustees to run the school within the framework established by the convention. Whenever the trustees refuse to heed the wishes of the convention they are subject to recall at the next session of the parent body. Such would be a desperate move, but the trustees themselves could make such a move necessary.

It is difficult to imagine how trustees could feel they were performing the ministry entrusted to them when they choose to ignore the wishes of the body placing its trust in them.

much beyond ones and tens of dollars. But even if every resident member gave at least one dollar, our base of giving and our actual total would be vastly expanded. In light of the unprecedented opportunity of this year, I would like to challenge every Baptist, including those thousands who have never given before, to "Share" at least \$1.00 in home missions.

Practically, we realize that our actual resident membership is much less than 13,000,000. In the last couple of years, the average gift per resident member has been less than \$1.05.

We know that those loyal and faithful to home missions give sacrificially

Baptists. This is the only time in our history that we could say, "One dollar from every Baptist will reach the goal."

It would really be a great strength to home missions and to every local church if every person on our rolls were concerned enough to give at least \$1.00 to home missions.

Practically, we realize that our actual resident membership is much less than 13,000,000. In the last couple of years, the average gift per resident member has been less than \$1.05.

We know that those loyal and faithful to home missions give sacrificially

Letters To The Editor

Thank You for the *Baptist Record* that I am receiving.

I would like to share with you something that is of great importance to me of the Lord's work.

I am the interim Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Fort Benton Montana, one of the oldest towns in Montana. It was the only port where they could bring supplies from the east by water.

Southern Baptist work began in 1958 as a mission of the First Southern Baptist Church in Great Falls, Montana, but after starting the work, they soon found it difficult to support it in any way and since then the church has had a very hard time to keep its doors open. The town has approximately 2,500 people and is growing at a fair pace now; it also has a large community around it without any Southern Baptist work.

With these needs I have some other burdens that I would like to share with you. First, we are in search for a man of God who would want to serve his Lord in this small town church.

Next, the church has only enough money to pay the pastor \$45.00 a month for his services. In the winter months our water supply must be cut off for there is not enough money to pay the fuel bill. The congregation is afraid to

expand because of the lack of funds. And last, the building is old and in much need of repairs.

Virginia McGee (Mrs. B. B.) West, Ms.

B. B. McGee is second vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Montana Church

Dear Sir:

I would like to take this time to say

Work With Choctaws

Dear Mr. McGregor:

We have a message of appreciation to Mississippi Baptists and trust that we might send the message through the *BAPTIST RECORD*.

We are in our eleventh year serving as your missionaries among the Choctaw Indians of Mississippi. The Lord just keeps on blessing and blessing. As we count our blessings, we are thankful for Mississippi Baptists whose prayer support and sustaining financial support through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Cooperative Program and State Mission Offering is vital in making possible this ministry.

Rejoice with us, Mississippi Baptists, and join with us in praising the Lord that during 1977

forty-five baptisms were reported by the Choctaw churches.

two men surrendered to the gospel ministry.

more than 600 were in daily average attendance in Vacation Bible Schools.

a new home Bible study group was started in an unchurched area and now has about 25 in weekly attendance.

over the past five years the Choctaw churches have had a 90% increase in Cooperative Program giving.

As we near the Week of Prayer for Home Missions we would ask Mississ

sippi Baptists to continue to mention our name when talking with the Lord.

Your missionaries, Dolton and Martha Haggan P. O. Box 265 Phil., MS 39350

Church In Germany

Dear Editor:

Temple Baptist Church, Stuttgart, Germany, a Baptist church and a member of the European Baptist Convention, is seeking a pastor. Temple is an English-language church serving a congregation of American Armed Forces and civilian personnel.

We would appreciate it if you would print the following announcement in your paper:

Temple Baptist Church — Stuttgart, Germany: Member European Baptist Convention, an English-language church, serving a congregation of American Armed Forces and civilian personnel.

For full information write:

Catherine S. Rudder
Corresponding Secretary
AFOSI Detachment 7013
Stuttgart Spt Cmd Mail
APO New York 09154

There is honor in labor. Work is the medicine of the soul. It is more: it is your very life, without which you would amount to little. — Grenville Kleiser.

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Montana Church

Dear Sir:

I would like to take this time to say

Baptist, Jew Agree On Evangelism Packaging

(Continued from page 1)

who declare very clearly, 'I'm an evangelical Christian' . . . We have a Federal Trade Commission which insists on fair packaging so that we know what the ingredients are . . . I would think religious institutions have at least that obligation to let people know exactly what they stand for."

Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, distinguished between witnessing and proselytizing. "Witnessing is coming to say 'This is my experience with the Father' (God). To proselytize is to pick you out and try to manipulate you in some way to be in my organization or

to adopt my language," he explained. "Because God respected conscience and built his whole creation that way we have a responsibility to respect conscience and the integrity of somebody else's choice," Allen said.

"The spiritual darkness of our world demands that every person with the light bear that light, bear that witness, so we are intentionally evangelistic and missionary without any kind of apology," Allen said.

Tanenbaum acknowledged that the friendships between Baptist and Jewish leaders are only the beginning of dialogue. "Misunderstandings are very deep," he said. "But the prospects for the future are extraordinary because Baptists have given a great deal to America."

Allen noted that Baptists and Jews share a deep belief in religious liberty and human rights.

"If Baptists and Jews stand for anything," Tanenbaum added, "it's for the sacred dignity of every human life. And that's a witness we can share together, not only for ourselves, but for all the members of God's human family."

"The key," Allen said, "is tender respect and lack of insecurity about what you believe. Actually, when you feel insecure you have to hammer somebody into silence who objects to what you're saying."

Allen and Tanenbaum noted several areas where Baptists and Jews agree. Both groups have suffered persecution for their belief in individual expression, Allen said. He also pointed out that both groups have congregational forms of government as well as sharing common spiritual roots.

HMB Names Bi-Vocational Consultant

ATLANTA (BP) — A consultant to work with bi-Vocational pastors was named by directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during their February meeting.

J. T. Burdine Jr. will become rural-urban field consultant assigned to work with the nearly 10,000 Southern Baptist ministers who work in secular employment but also serve as pastor of churches.

Burdine, a board staffer for two years, resigned as associate director of the department of the board's rural-urban missions to accept the newly created position.

In other action, directors named Laura Fry, 29, of Miami Beach, as the first national evangelism consultant for women and appointed 27 persons to missionary service, including seven missionaries, 12 missionary associates and eight pastors to receive financial aid.

Board Establishes Ethnic-Black Unit

NASHVILLE (BP) — Increasing numbers of ethnic and black churches in the Southern Baptist Convention has led to the creation of a special unit at the Sunday School Board to relate to the needs of these churches.

Trustees of the Sunday School Board, in their semi-annual meeting in Nashville, approved creation of the unit along with the naming of Robert M. Boyd as the temporary supervisor.

Grady C. Cothen, president of the board, said the unit "will represent only Sunday School Board programs to these ethnic and black groups. We plan to cooperate closely with similar operations at the Home Mission Board," Cothen continued, "to provide services for all Southern Baptist churches as they plan their ministries."

Cothen said that "once lines are established, we should get sufficient ethnic feedback to require employment of one person of ethnic background and one black person who will be generalists representing all Sunday School Board interests to the appropriate publics."

RETIRING? Senior citizens should be utilized in consultative and advisory roles after retirement, according to Wayne Oates, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, to Oklahoma Baptist University's fifth annual Special Adult Conference for persons 55 and older. "Older persons are particularly adapted to this consultative service," explained Oates. "They can be advisors, mentors or consultants. What they have to offer is judgment, perspective and wisdom—that is if they haven't allowed themselves to become bitter, cynical and vindictive."

Filmed at a cost of approximately \$1.7 million, the film is from the studio of World Wide Pictures, an adjunct of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Julie Harris tops the cast as the deeply spiritual Betsie, Corrie's sister.

Eileen Heckart is cast as a trustee at

Ravensbruck where she works as a nurse and comes to experience the softening of her character through the spiritual witness of Corrie and Betsie ten Boom.

Arthur O'Connell plays Papa ten Boom, a watchmaker who lived with his family over his small shop in Haarlem.

Jeannette Clift, highly schooled in drama both in the Southwest and in New York portrays Corrie.

In recent years Clift has been identified with the After Dinner Players, a group of religious actors who perform original plays written by her and other writers. The After Dinner Plays performed recently at Mississippi College.

Tickets are now on sale in the Mississippi College BSU office and in the Student Affairs Office in the B. C. Rogers Student Center. They are \$1.00 advance or \$1.50 at the door.

Agricultural Missions Group To Hear Missionaries From Three Countries

The eighth annual meeting of the Agricultural Missions Foundation, Ltd., will be held at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, on March 3.

Agricultural Missions Foundation is a group of Christian laymen dedicated to support agricultural missionaries through support services, equipment, finance and technical knowledge. The thrust of AMF is to provide an opportunity for Christian service through agriculture.

Owen Cooper, president, announced that the Board's business session will begin at 1:30 p.m. with a parallel program for visitors and wives. Anyone interested may attend.

The program will follow this schedule: 3:15 General Session; 6:00 Food and Fellowship; 6:45 General Session.

The highlight of the sessions will be presentations by Dr. Jerry Bedsole, DVM, agricultural missionary from Ethiopia; Rollie Ennis, agricultural missionary from Tanzania; James Gilbert, missionary to Ecuador, and Eugene Grubbs, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

A Foreign Mission Board publication describes the agricultural missionary as having a unique combination to offer foreign missions: "He can help remedy man's two basic hungers in constructive and creative ways. Armed with skills of food output and soil conservation, he can lead men to productive lives in which dignity and good health replace hunger and malnutrition. Motivated by the desire to share the news of God's redemptive love, he can minister to man's spiritual hunger and see hope replace despair."

Serving primarily in lands where agricultural technology is poorly developed, the agricultural missionary usually works either through an institution or directly with the farmer. . . .

The institutional agricultural missionary is connected with a high school, assembly, training college, or some other institution. His main function is to train students. . . .

The field agricultural missionary works directly with 'dirt farmers.' He enlists demonstration farmers and,

farming closely with them, he introduces them to new methods. The resulting crop provide proof for all in the region to see. . . .

Through their occupation, agricultural missionaries often have personal contact with people who would be hard to reach in any other way. . . .

"At a small church on Lake Malawi, where the pastor is a poor fisherman, nearly 200 persons once turned out for a typical agricultural field day. At the end of the event, the missionary gave a short evangelistic message. Because he was speaking primarily to non-

Christians who had never heard the gospel, he didn't give the invitation, but urged the people to return to the church at a later time to hear more. About to bring the meeting to a close, he was surprised to hear a voice cry, 'But I want to receive Christ now!' This farmer and another man professed Christ as their Savior at that time.

"This experience of one missionary serves simply to demonstrate how the power of the gospel accompanies the agricultural missionary as he shares his skills with a world in need."

farmers closely with them, he introduces them to new methods. The resulting crop provide proof for all in the region to see. . . .

Through their occupation, agricultural missionaries often have personal contact with people who would be hard to reach in any other way. . . .

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Thursday, February 23, 1978

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Volunteer Missions

Committee To Match People and Projects

(Continued from page 1)

go must provide for their own expenses.

Tidsworth is trying now to match volunteers with needs. He may be contacted at 801 Sixth Avenue, St. Albans, W. Va. 25177 (phone 304-727-2974). Or you may contact the V.I.M. Committee in Mississippi, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. (If you contact Tidsworth, Rogers said he needs to know that, so two groups will not be directed to the same area.)

Mission Projects

Northwestern West Virginia

I. Mission Building Projects

A. Glenville — Owns property. Now meeting in old house. Over-crowded, needs first unit of building. Size about 94' x 65'.
B. Spencer — Small church now using mobile chapel for Sunday School space. Needs an educational unit about 29' x 48'.
Workers needed for one of the above projects: 1 carpenter, 1 plumber, 1 electrician, 3 helpers. More if possible.
C. (Project in Eastern Panhandle. Old Fields where Homer Albright is missionary). Old Fields chapel has about 20 members, meets in a mobile chapel. Has land bought on site loan from the Home Mission Board. Needs building about 29' x 56'.
Workers needed: 1 carpenter, 1 electrician, 1 plumber, 3 helpers. More if possible.

II. Mission Bible Schools

A. St. Mary's: Located in Pleasant County where Southern Baptists have no congregation. Revival. Perhaps launch mission at end of week (Belmont).
B. Sherrard: In Ohio County where Southern Baptists have no work. Launch mission, puppets, choir specials, etc.
C. Roberts Ridge: Rural fringe community. Choir group. Survey. Expect to have mission going by the time the group would arrive.
D. Limestone: Rural fringe community. Near Moundsville. Choir group. Visitation. Launch Mission.
E. Wellsburg: Town of 4,600 people with 3,200 unsaved. No So. Bap. work. Four So. Bap. families live there. Revival. Visitation. Launch mission.
F. Mineral Wells: Rural fringe community near Parkersburg. Revival. Visitation. Launch mission.
G. Arnoldsburg: Mission already going but need workers for VBS.
H. Glenville: Mission already going but need workers for VBS.
I. Cameron: Small town where only Baptist Church has closed. Revival. Perhaps survey.
J. Reader: Three small towns with no Baptist witness. Revival. Visitation. Launch mission.
K. New Cumberland: An area located between two of our existing churches where a new mission is needed.
L. West Union: County seat of Doddridge where Southern Baptists have no church. Revival.
M. Sistersville or Middlebourne: Special music events, puppets, etc. or revival. In Tyler County. No SBC work.
N. Ellenville or Pennington: In Ritchie County. No SBC congregation. Revival.
Workers needed for Bible Schools:

Preschool workers Minimum 12 Maximum 24
Younger children Minimum 12 Maximum 24
Older children Minimum 12 Maximum 24
Youth Minimum 12 Maximum 24
Song leaders Minimum 12 Maximum 24
Pianists Minimum 12 Maximum 24
General workers (Refreshments, records, etc.) Minimum 12 Maximum 24
(These workers could be divided equally among the above places)

Annie Armstrong:

The Woman And The Offering

By Debbie Baird Buie

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Annie Armstrong is more than just a name on the home missions offering envelopes. There really was an Annie, and she was the power behind mobilizing Baptist support of home missions.

Annie Walker Armstrong was the first corresponding secretary (now called executive director) of Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention. As corresponding secretary, she led in establishing Convention-wide offerings and weeks of prayer for both foreign and home missions.

Annie was never a "pew-warming" church-goer. To her, Christian dedication meant working for her Lord to spread the gospel. Annie became interested in missions through her unwillingness to be a complacent Christian. Her mother had been involved in a woman's society on foreign missions, "Woman's Mission to Woman," and when in 1880 she heard of the needs of an Indian mission on the "frontier," Annie and her sister Alice responded

by forming a missionary society to make clothes for the Indian school children. Two Baltimore societies were formed.

In 1882 requests from the mission were so great that the two societies could not comply with them all. Annie visited Baltimore and surrounding area churches to express the need and help begin mission societies.

Annie kept in close contact with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during this time. She and sister Alice began literature dispersion from the Maryland Baptist reading room. The Mission Rooms distributed leaflets on both home and foreign missions.

The Home Mission Board corresponding secretary, Dr. I. T. Tichenor, requested the Baltimore women's societies to help in many projects. One, a drive to acquire funds for building a Baptist church in Havana, Cuba, was begun just a few months before the founding of Woman's Missionary Union.

When WMU was established in May 1888, one of the first and major fund

raising projects given the unified women's missions societies was "buying bricks" for the Cuban church.

Annie Armstrong was elected corresponding secretary of Woman's Missionary Union in that May 1888 meeting. Baltimore was established the central headquarters. Annie and Baltimore had a lot of missions in making. With her love for the Lord and missions, Annie brought with her first-hand knowledge of work with the Indians and missionaries on the frontier. She had worked with immigrants in the sea-port town of Baltimore and had led in teaching them English by using the Bible as textbook, and she had helped to reinforce or begin missionary societies in the black churches of Maryland.

Annie got right about the business of mission support through praying, giving, and learning about missions. Using the Baltimore Mission Rooms as a good, strong foothold, Annie led in the production of many leaflets and other literature needed to educate Southern Baptist women in missions.

"Brick Cards" and informational leaflets, prepared by Dr. Tichenor, were distributed by the thousands, soliciting support for the Cuban church. This was the first "fund-raising" effort of the societies now known as Woman's Missionary Union.

In 1894, WMU was made aware of a large debt owed by the Home Mission Board. Annie Armstrong proposed a week of self-denial to acquaint people with the needs on the home mission fields. The first observance was held in 1895 and the first offering, the Self-Denial Offering for Home Missions, was begun.

Miss Armstrong continued to work to organize women — just as she had done for the Indian mission children with the Baltimore women's home missionary society. She continued to learn missions, first-hand — just as she had done when she worked with immigrants and the black churches.

From 1888, when she became corresponding secretary of WMU, until 1901, Miss Armstrong paid her own travel expenses and refused salary for

her services. At one time she traveled on a mission tour over 3,300 miles in 21 days, visiting 19 places, and giving 26 speeches.

She kept a log of her journeys, noting specific needs of the missionaries and others along the frontier of missions.

From these notations, women's societies were assigned a missionary or missionary family to clothe for a project. They were given sizes of the missionary, his wife, and children. Along with clothing, societies would fulfill other requests for bedclothes, blankets, shoes, books, and other supplies.

Women's societies would pack these articles in "missionary barrels" and ship them to their missionary. Women began to identify with the missionary, with missions in a deep, personal way.

In 1903, at the suggestion of the Home Mission Board, the special emphasis for home missions was changed to "Week of Prayer and Special Offering for Home Missions." Giving to and learning about missions had become less a self-denial and more a way of service for the Southern Baptist women.

In 1922 the offering became known as the "Thank Offering," and in 1933 it was named for the one who had so painstakingly supported and promoted home missions. It became the "Annie W. Armstrong Offering for Home Missions." Later the "W" was dropped, and the offering became identified with the Easter season when in 1969 it was named the "Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions."

Annie Armstrong died in 1938 at the age of 88. She had retired from WMU in 1906. The offering memorialized her and her ideals and dreams for home mission support.

The year the offering was named for Miss Armstrong, the home missions gifts totaled over \$68,000. Last year, forty-five years later, offering receipts totaled \$10,745,967.67. Cumulative receipts for home missions offering since 1907 is \$104,177,212.72.

It all began with a plan to help some Indian children, and now Indians represent but one ethnic group in the Language Missions Department. In the 1978 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, \$3,000,000 is allocated for Language Missions. And under special projects, \$10,000 is allocated for Indian leadership training.

But Language Missions is only one of eight major divisions of funds. There is evangelism, church extension, Christian social ministries, interfaith witness, work with National Baptists, chaplaincy, and associational support.

In 1904, Miss Armstrong reported to the Home Mission Board an offering gift of 10 cents from Peter Ewing, a "full-blooded Indian." She told the Board, "The gift is so small, still I feel should receive a receipt for it."



Unity Earns Achievement Award

Unity Church, Greene Association, has received Distinguished Recognition in the use of the Church Training Achievement Guide. Unity Church was the first church in the state to complete all three levels this year. With an enrollment of 81 in Church Training, an average attendance of 51 was reported during the past church year. Resident church membership is 121. It was through the cooperation of the entire church family and particularly the Church Training leaders that Unity was able to achieve this recognition.

Pictured, first row, left to right: Mrs. Lurell Mixon, secretary; Mrs. Gavin Breland, director; Mrs. Linwood Turner, Preschool leader; Claude Killion, pastor. Back row: Mrs. Gayle Roberts, Children's leader; Mrs. Claude Killion, Youth leader; Mrs. Roland Neal, Adult leader. Mrs. George Perkins, a Preschool leader, is not pictured.

Indonesians, Missionaries See New Day Of Cooperation

SEMARANG, Indonesia (BP) — After more than six years of strained relations, Indonesian Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries are experiencing a renewed spirit of cooperation and are making strides toward better working relationships.

Decisions made at the Association of Indonesian Baptist Churches' triennial congress, held in late 1977, herald what the newly elected chairman of the association calls "a new day."

"We are laying here new foundations," said Pak Wim Theorupun, the Baptist layman and federal attorney from eastern Indonesia who was elected chairman of the association. "We will forget the past and the negative factors of it. We will show Indonesia what Baptists can do, led of God, in unity."

These words, reported in a newsletter to Southern Baptists' 117 missionaries assigned to Indonesia, gave grounds for optimism about the future of Baptist work in this Southeast Asia country. For the past six years, relationships between missionaries and many national Baptist leaders have been disrupted by disagreement over the best way to develop Baptist churches that can thrive in the Indonesian culture.

The rupture in relationships began in 1971 after the Indonesian Baptist Mission, according to Sanders and William N. McElrath, missionary press representative.

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An ALUMNI BIBLE CONFERENCE with Dr. Henry Morris, Dr. George Sweeting, and the professors of the Criswell Center.

A CHURCH DYNAMICS SEMINAR with the church sharing methodology for building a great Sunday School and church.



Members of one of the younger groups at Banglamuang Chapel, Cholburi, Thailand, get involved in learning about Jesus at Vacation Bible School. (FMB) photo by William L. Hitt.

In Thailand

By Debbie Baird Buie

CHOLBURI, Thailand — When Donald V. Phlegar and his wife, the former Barbara Anne Carley of Yazoo City, Miss., began planning Vacation Bible School (VBS) for Banglamuang Chapel here, they decided they wanted to do something different, something that would involve the parents, too.

They knew some parents would come with their children, to see what their youngsters were doing, but there had been very little previous contact with these people of Muslim background. The Phlegars wanted to get to know them better.

They decided to take pictures of the children working, playing and learning at Bible school and present a slide show one evening.

The program was planned for Wednesday night of the second week. Children took letters home inviting their parents to "Parents' Night." Because the auditorium was too small for the anticipated crowd, provisions were made to meet in the church yard. The screen was a cloth mounted to the side of a large truck.

Little children sang songs they had learned at Bible school; older youngsters recited the books of the Bible; and Southern Baptist missionary Robert R. Stewart preached. Then the

slide show began. About 30 adults and 30 to 40 young people saw what their children or younger brothers and sisters had been doing every day for almost two weeks.

When the program ended, a parent who previously wouldn't even speak to the pastor told him that he was welcome to visit in his home at any time, according to Maxine Stewart, press representative.

Before "Parents' Night" 60 children

had been enrolled in VBS. The next morning 70 children showed up.

The Phlegars hope that at least part of these children will join the 30 former Bible school-goers who are now enrolled in Sunday School.

(NOTE: The Phlegars are currently serving an interim period as hostel parents for children of missionaries attending International School in Bangkok.)

Mark 4:35-36

Mobile Classroom Aids Ministry Among Iowans

DES MOINES, Iowa (BP) — When US-2 worker Robin Bridges, assigned by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to two years of volunteer service in the U. S., found himself in Des Moines, he had plenty to do, but nowhere to do it.

Thousands live in three low income government housing projects but the only facilities available to begin ministries in those areas were beyond the finances of Bridges and his supporters.

Then Bridges and his supervisor Greg Whitetree, director of Christian Social Ministries for the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship, hit on the idea

of a mobile classroom.

"I found an advertisement where there was a 1955 Chevrolet bus for sale," Bridges said. "The bus had been converted to a camper. When I saw it, I knew that it was exactly what we needed. It has a stove, a table and some other things, plus a big area in the back that can be used for classes."

Bridges didn't have the \$700 needed to buy the bus so he and Mike Roberts, the language missions director for Iowa, took out a personal loan for the amount.

Bridges, Whitetree, and Roberts have named their project "Other Little Ships," taken from Mark 4:35-36. They figure it will cost approximately \$3,000 by the time they have the bus licensed and equipped just the way they want it, adding a folding basketball goal on the back, and adding tarps in the summer that can be unrolled from the top and sides to make several classrooms around the bus.

Bridges also hopes that the bus can be used as a craft center for senior adults in one of the housing projects. "These senior citizens are excited about the possibility," Bridges said. "They want to participate in activities, but can't because they are so far away. When I talked to the tenants association, the senior citizens representatives were excited about the possibility of pulling our bus up to their apartment complex and having a craft and activities center right there."

Bridges envisions other avenues of ministry with the bus including Sunday Schools, day care, Boy Scouts, Vacation Bible School, reading classes, friendship clubs and others.

MC Students Attend Mission Conferences at 3 Seminaries

Mississippi College students involved in BSU activities will be participating in three student mission conferences in February and March, according to Bradley Pope, BSU director.

Six students attended the first conference at New Orleans Seminary, February 17-19, around the theme, "There's a World Out There."

The weekend conferences are held on a seminary campus and emphasis is placed on missions through speakers, music, drama and small class discussions. The weekend provides an opportunity for students to visit Southern Baptist seminaries and meet students from other colleges and universi-

ties. Two other weekend opportunities will include a trip to Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, Feb. 24-26 around the theme, "His Purpose, My Mission," at a trip to Southwestern Seminary, March 10-12 around the theme, "Lord, Lead the Way." Over 40 Mississippi College students will be participating in the final two trips. Students will be traveling with the First Church, Jackson, for the Texas trip.

According to Pope, there is still time to sign up for the trip to Southwestern Seminary and interested students should contact the BSU office.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS



The new Miss Carey College is Martha Waller, center, from New Orleans. A business administration major, Martha is a senior and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Waller. Her mother has been the long-time secretary to the dean at New Orleans Seminary. Susan Clark, left, of Leakesville, was named second alternate while Wanda Gettie of Hattiesburg was selected as first alternate. Martha, a regular member of Carey's singing group, the Carpenter's Wood, will represent her campus at the Miss Mississippi Pageant in Vicksburg in July.

Tom Larrimore of 1156 Winnie Rose, Jackson, is beginning his eighth year as full-time music evangelist. In a special service at First Church, Jackson, on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 12, he was ordained to the gospel ministry.

Larrimore, a native of Mississippi, is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Florence Kull, an employee of the Baptist Record, and they have three children, Ann, Jan, and Van. Van is a student at New Orleans Seminary; Ann is a senior at Callaway High School, and Jan is a student at Woodland Hills Academy.

Dan Springfield is entering full-time vocational evangelism, and on March 1 will leave the active pastorate. Sandi, his wife, will be traveling with him and doing solo work in revival efforts. Springfield is presently pastor of Ballwin Church in St. Louis, Mo. He formerly pastored the Rock Branch Church, Union; Cedar Bluff Church, and West End Church, West Point, all in Mississippi. He and Sandi graduated from Clarke College and attended Mississippi State University. They are available for meetings and can be contacted at P. O. Box 9925, Kirkwood, Mo., phone 314-821-5350.

A. Bolling Kelly III, a native of Yazoo City, has been called as pastor of First Church, Helena, Ark. He has served as pastor of the Steep Hollow Church, Bryan, Texas, since 1976. Kelly is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary. He has completed residency requirements for them Doctor of Ministry degree. While in Bryan, he was vice president of the Bryan-College Station Ministerial Association and moderator of the Creath-Brazos Baptist Association. He is married to the former Marsha McGee of Trinidad, Tex., graduate of Baylor and Southwestern.

Kelly has served as pastor of the Steep Hollow Church, Bryan, Texas, since 1976. Kelly is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary. He has completed residency requirements for them Doctor of Ministry degree. While in Bryan, he was vice president of the Bryan-College Station Ministerial Association and moderator of the Creath-Brazos Baptist Association. He is married to the former Marsha McGee of Trinidad, Tex., graduate of Baylor and Southwestern.

Mississippian In Thai King's Audience

CHACHEUNSAO, Thailand — Three Southern Baptist missionaries were invited to join leaders of all religious faiths in an audience with the king of Thailand recently, on the eve of his 50th birthday. All three hold positions at the Thailand Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries). Attending the occasion were Bobby L. Spear of Oklahoma, mission administrator; Max N. Alexander of Arkansas, business manager; and Fanny Starnes of Mississippi, treasurer. They were received in the visitors hall at the Chitlada Palace, residence of the royal family.

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Revival Dates

Meridian Doctor On Mission In India

Dr. Edward L. Moore of 4806 11 Place, Meridian, has been serving on a month-long volunteer mission in India, under direction of the Foreign Mission Board.

He left on January 25 to serve as an ophthalmologist in India, and will return Feb. 23. His wife joined him in India on Feb. 14.

12 Ways To Be Perfectly Miserable

1. Think about yourself.
2. Talk about yourself.
3. Listen greedily to what people say about you.
4. Expect to be appreciated.
5. Be sensitive to slights.
6. Never forgive any criticism.
7. Trust nobody but your self.
8. Demand agreement with your own views on everything.
9. Sulk if people are not grateful to you for favors shown them.
10. Be on the lookout for a good time for yourself.
11. Shirk your duties if possible.
12. Do as little as possible for others.

— THE GLOSTER BAPTIST

Jim Watts, missionary to Florence, Italy, was guest speaker at the Ladies Day banquet for Lebanon Baptist Ministers and wives. Temple Church, with pastor Kermit McGregor, hosted the event. Sixty ministers and their wives attended. Watts, who served 10 years in the Baptist ministry of music, sang two solos in Italian, then spoke briefly of his work in Italy. He said he and his family plan to return to Florence in September. He is staying at the 38th Avenue Baptist Church mission home. Any local ministers interested in having Watts sing or speak at their Sunday services should contact James McLemore, pastor of 38th Avenue Baptist Church, Hattiesburg.



Three hundred and eighty-five students have enrolled for the spring semester during registration at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla., January 26, 27. This is an increase of 30 over the first semester and is the largest second semester increase in the history of the school. Mid-year graduation was held in the Robert G. Lee Chapel on campus. Ernest E. Saine of Meridian was among those receiving a Diploma of Theology.

Lamar Crocker, pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church, Woodland, was recently honored by the Jaycees of Houston, Ms., when they named him the Outstanding Young Religious Leader of 1977.



YOUTH REVIVAL TEAM — For the eighth straight year The Northeast Mississippi Junior College Baptist Student Union has organized a Youth Revival Team. From left: DONNIE PAYNE, preacher from Blue Springs; SANDY CULVER, pianist from New Albany; and TOMMY HILL, music director from Ripley. Not pictured is STEVE CARTWRIGHT, Bible study and recreational leader from Booneville. Churches desiring to have this team for a revival may call JOE COBB at the Northeast Baptist Student Center.

H. J. Rushing has accepted a position as associate to the director of missions of District Eleven in southeast Louisiana. The director is John L. Gilbert. Both are former Mississippians. Rushing was pastor in Mississippi at West Laurel, Grace Memorial, Gulfport, and Emmanuel, Vicksburg. For the past 6 1/2 years he has been assistant pastor and interim pastor at First Church, Houma, La. He will be moving to Hammond, La. by Feb. 15.

Dr. and Mrs. David Harms, missionaries to Honduras, are the parents of a daughter born Jan. 22. They may be addressed at

Apartado 868, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Central America. He spent his early childhood in Yonkers, N. Y., and finished high school in Miami, Fla. She is the former Joyce Harrison of Franklin, Ind. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1972.

Charles Doggett, director of the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission's Pioneer department from 1969 to 1975, has been named an editor in the youth section of the SBC Sunday School Board's church training department.

Staff Changes

Barry Edward Hardy of Clinton has accepted the call of Parkway Church, Jackson, to serve as minister of youth education effective March 1. A native Mississippian, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. He will assist in the coordination of the total ministry to those in Grades 7 through college. He goes to Parkway from First Church of Clinton where he has served for three years. Bill Causey is pastor at Parkway.

Rob Robbins has accepted a call from Gore Springs Church, Grenada Association, as part-time minister of music. He served as a summer music missionary with the Mississippi Baptist Convention last summer. He also served one year as a music assistant in his home church, Morrison Heights, Clinton. Son of Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Robbins, of Clinton, he is a third year church music major at Mississippi College.

Stan Henson is the new minister of music and activities at First Church of Vancleave. He is a graduate of William Carey College and is a student at New Orleans Seminary. Henson is married with one son. Felix Greer, Jr. is the pastor.

Warren Rush has accepted a call as pastor of Bethlehem Church, Jones County, effective March 1. He comes from Parkway Church, Tallahassee, Fla., where he served as pastor for 21 years. He was formerly pastor at Bethlehem for three years. He is a native of Mobile, and his wife is a native Mississippian.

Rush is a graduate of University of Alabama and Southwestern Seminary. He is author of God's Answer to Suicide. He was chaplain of Florida State Highway Patrol for 19 years, and originated Suicide Help-Code-A-Phone in Tallahassee.

Charles Walker is minister of music at Calvary Church, Lebanon Association. Richard White is Calvary's new associate pastor.

Edward McKeithen has resigned as pastor of Trinity Church (Wayne). He retired and moved to Mobile.

James Whittington has resigned as pastor of Emmanuel Church, Gulf Coast Association.

Harry Cottrell has resigned as pastor of East Side Church, Gulf Coast.

Paul Stevens, vice-president of student affairs at New Orleans Seminary, is interim pastor at Bay Vista Church, Gulf Coast.

Phil Harris is the new pastor at Immanuel Church (Lebanon).

Ricky Hamm has been called as minister of youth and music at Green's Creek Church, Lebanon Association.

Group Named To Pick Fisher Successor

NASHVILLE (BP) — Daniel R. Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., has been named chairman of a seven-person search committee to find a successor to Ben C. Fisher, who will take early retirement Sept. 30 as executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Education Commission chairman, George E. Bagley, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, also named J. M. Boswell, president of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky.; John E. Johns, president of Furman University, Greenville, S. C.; Tom J. Madden, director of the convention ministries division, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood; and James L. Sells, president of Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo. Bagley will serve as an ex officio member of the committee.

Fisher, who will be 63 in May, will announce retirement plans at a later date.

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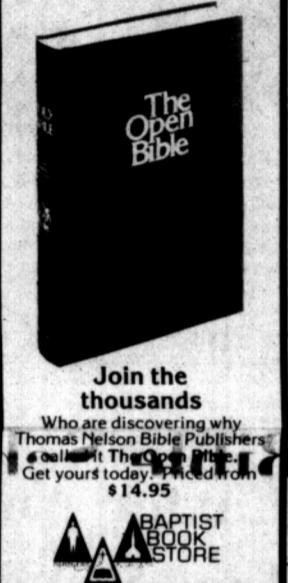
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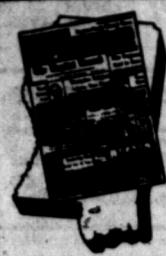
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Just For The Record



WALLERVILLE CHURCH, Route 1, New Albany, has burned a note, after being in the new church plant one year. Left to right are the building committee, David Coleman; Houston Richey holding the burning note; Horace Steward lighting the note, (Steward is also church treasurer); Devon Freeman and Duncan Gates; H. Bryan Abel, pastor, holding the tray. Church members gave \$55,000 last year to make their church debt free. Plans are being formulated for an additional educational building and family life center. Pastor Abel celebrated his first year of service with the church on Christmas day.



First Church of Vancleave has given \$1,070 for the 1977 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. The goal had been set at \$1,000. The 1977 Lottie Moon Offering is the largest ever given in the history of the church. Felix V. Greer, Jr. is the pastor.



GOLDIE HARBOUR APPRECIATION DAY was Sunday, Dec. 4, at the Elam Church, Yalobusha Association. Mrs. Harbour, left, was surprised when her church presented her with a \$50 gift certificate and a Christmas flower. B. B. Brewer, right, presented the gift with words of appreciation for over 20 years of dedicated service as church pianist. Mrs. Harbour was also presented a keepsake by her pastor and his wife, Billy and Ann McDaniel.

RIVERPORT CHURCH, Greenville, set a goal for \$300 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and reached it within ten minutes after the goal was announced in Sunday School. On her way from Sunday School to the worship service the WMU director, Jean Tullis, was handed \$190, and then within ten minutes, \$136 more had been given. The whole world map with 60 lights, each for \$5, was turned on immediately. The RA and GA organizations, shown above, gave \$20 each. M. E. Perry is the pastor.

It is only in literature that coincidences seem unnatural — Robert Lynd.

It is better to be alone than among bores. — Montaigne

FAD

Carter Announces 1979 Conference On Families

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Jimmy Carter announced a White House Conference on Families, Dec. 9-13, 1979, in Washington, and Congress has held two days of hearings to review plans for the event.

Original plans for a White House Conference on Families were projected during Carter's presidential campaign. He announced his intention for such a conference in a speech to the National Conference of Catholic Charities in Denver, Oct. 4, 1976.

In his recent official announcement, Carter explained: "The main purpose of this White House conference will be to examine the strengths of American

families, the difficulties they face, and the ways in which family life is affected by public policies."

"The conference will examine the important effects that the world of work, the mass media, the court system, private institutions, and other major facets of our society have on American families," he continued.

ANGWIN, Calif. (RNS) — Pacific Union College, a Seventh Day Adventist school here, has established a Greek Manuscript Research Center for the classification of microfilmed copies of original Greek texts.

By Hardy R. Denham, Jr.
First, Newton
Psalms 23

Men have described the Christian life in various ways. Basically it is a life of relationship. The distinctive characteristic of this life is that one is related to the Lord God. This relationship is stated in many ways, but one of the most beautiful is found in Psalms 23.



Guy Reedy, pastor of First Church, Water Valley, and Mrs. Reedy were honored by the church members with a reception on January 29. It was the eighth anniversary of Reedy's pastorate of the church. More than 300 members and friends came through the line to greet and congratulate them. The Reeds are pictured with the silver punch service presented by the congregation.

A doctor is the only man who keeps right on getting paid whether his work is satisfactory or not.

Devotional

Our Hands

By Evie Landrum Goodrich, Clinton

"What is that in thine hand?" (Exodus 4:2)

Ages ago this very pertinent question was asked of Moses when he was making excuses about doing a special task for God.

Moses had a rod in his hand and God told him to cast it on the ground. When he did, the rod became a serpent; then God told him to pick it up.

When he did so it became a rod again.

As Moses went through other tests he was helped by God's promises. God would go with him and give him words to speak as he did what God wanted him to do.

I once heard of an elderly woman who was deprived of many good things of life, but who was a faithful Christian.

One Sunday she heard her pastor speak on this subject, "What is in your Hand?"

She went home and meditated on what she had heard, and then she looked at her hands. They were wrinkled and shaky,

but she said, "My pastor told us that each one holds something in our hands and can be used of God if we would just give it to Him."

She looked out of her window and she saw her flower beds. The pansies were in full bloom. She immediately thought of what she could do: She copied Bible verses and tied each one to a small bouquet of pansies.

To a banker who had recently lost his wife she gave a comforting verse and flowers.

Also she visited sick people and gave them some appropriate promises and flowers.

When the woman returned home, her heart was rejoicing because she did hold something in her hands which she could offer to God.

How about pausing a minute to find out what is in your life and hands that could glorify God this day!

(Note: The writer is the widow of A. L. Goodrich, a former editor of the Baptist Record.)

Americans United Pick 10 Top Church-State Stories

SILVER SPRING, Md. (BP) — The U. S. Supreme Court ruling in June that states cannot constitutionally aid parochial schools with field trip transportation or loans of instructional equipment was the top church-state story of 1977, according to the staffs of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and Church & State Magazine here.

The other significant stories in the Americans United top 10 were:

(2) A massive new campaign launched in Congress to get federal aid to parochial schools via tuition reimbursement grants and income tax credits (the Packwood-Moylan bill).

(3) Resolutions by nine state legislatures requesting Congress to call a constitutional convention to amend the Constitution to outlaw abortion.

(4) Denominational groups in Michigan campaigning to petition to referendum in 1978 a proposed amendment to the state constitution to provide full public funding for parochial schools under a voucher plan.

(5) Transcendental Meditation

(TM) found by a New Jersey federal court to be a substantially religious movement, and its teaching and promotion ordered banned from public schools.

(6) A federal appeals court ruling that the National Labor Relations Board has no jurisdiction over Catholic schools since they are religious institutions. The Supreme Court is being asked to settle the controversy.

(7) President Carter naming a "personal presidential envoy" to the Vatican, while efforts in Congress to pave the way for upgrading the envoy to ambassador rank were defeated.

(8) The First World Congress on Religious Liberty held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in March.

(9) The October Supreme Court affirmation of lower federal court rulings favorable to state aid for sectarian colleges.

(10) A federal district court in Rhode Island ruling in March that tax paid transportation services for parochial schools could not go beyond those provided to public schools.

Off The Record

The great Arturo Toscanini was known for his ability to conduct operas from memory, without using the score. He was conducting "Lohengrin" one evening when a critic, standing in the wings, commented to a stagehand that he could distinctly see the maestro was busily turning the pages of a score as he conducted! The stagehand was quick to tell him that that was actually the score for "Carmen" which he was brushing up on for the next evening's performance! — Funny Funny World.

Old Doc Jones had a work schedule on Wednesdays that he followed to a tee.

Wedding bells did break up "that old gang of mine" but they are getting together again now, of evenings, down at the corner Laundromat. — Press Journal, Vero Beach, Fla.

Said the kind old lady to the Internal Revenue clerk: "I do hope you'll give my money to some nice country."

Uniform Lesson

Trusting In God



I. The Person — Verse 1a.

The Lord is like a shepherd. The metaphor of a shepherd is often used in relation to the Lord (Isaiah 40:11; John 10:11; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25). What a shepherd would do for sheep, the Lord does for the believer. He is a Christian's guide, protector and friend.

There was a relationship between the psalmist and the Shepherd — Lord.



David declared, "The Lord is my shepherd." The Lord was not just a shepherd. The psalmist spoke of his own personal relationship to the Lord. All that David wrote in the verses that follow in this psalm was true of him because the Lord was his shepherd.

II. The Provisions — Verses 1b-3.

The Shepherd-Lord is the provider (verses 1b-2). It was the shepherd's responsibility to see to it that the sheep's needs were fully met. When David said, "I do not want," he did not mean that all his desires would be met, but all his needs. A person may well desire what he does not need. Instead, the word "want" refers to an unmet need. The completeness of this provision is described in the conduct of lying down in green pastures (verse 2). Sheep will not lie down if they are not satisfied and water made safe and still for drinking by damming a stream.

The Shepherd-Lord restores the sheep (verse 3a). The idea in this statement may be reviving the life, however it probably refers to the shepherd's act of restoring a wandering sheep. David knew personally that the Lord was faithful in this regard. He wrote, "He restores my soul." This is a cause for joy. The Lord will not discard one though he wanders away in sin anymore than a shepherd would fail to seek and recover a wandering or lost sheep (Matthew 18:10-14; Luke 15:3-7).

The Shepherd-Lord guides the sheep. Sheep are dependent on the shepherd in so many ways, and one is for leadership. Sheep have weak eyes and their vision is limited to about fifteen or twenty yards. The shepherd would be acquainted with the right paths and thus would lead the sheep along those paths. In a similar way the Lord leads His people. He does not say to the Christian, "There is the way, go travel it." Instead He says, "Here is the way, follow Me." Because of who He is one can follow with confidence knowing He leads in the path of righteousness.

III. The Protection — Verse 4.

A person must walk the valleys of life at times. "The valley of the shadow of death" is a valley of deep darkness or shadows. It is not just a place of death but any place of danger. In Palestine there are ravines where danger lurks. The danger could be in

the form of a beast, a robber or unsure footing. Thus the danger was a potential disaster. That is what the word "evil" means. It speaks of harm.

Even though one must often walk in the valley of life, the Lord protects in the valley. A threefold comfort is stated in verse 4. First, there is the comfort of the Lord's presence for He is with us in the valleys. Second, there is the comfort of the completed journey for He promises to lead us through the valley, not just into it. Third, there is the comfort of the shepherd's equipment. The rod was used to defend the sheep from any predator and the staff served to rescue a sheep which fell into a crevice. Thus a Christian does not need to fear the evils in the valleys of life. No matter how deep and dark these may be the Lord is with us to protect.

IV. The Prospect — Verses 5-6.

Some believe the psalmist mixed his metaphors in this psalm. There are those who see the Lord as the host and man as the guest in this section of the psalm. However, the shepherd-sheep metaphor can be seen in these last two verses.

The shepherd makes preparations (verse 5). If no suitable grazing land could be found, the shepherd would spread cloth on the ground and put food on it kept for such an emergency. And if a grazing area had poisonous weeds and briars growing in it, the shepherd would gather and burn them. Thus he literally prepared a table for his sheep. The anointing and cup refers to the application of oil to cuts and bruises as well as giving tired sheep water to drink from the shepherd's cup. In the presence of life's enemies the believer has the daily prospect of the Lord's loving care.

Furthermore, there is the prospect of the Lord's house. The psalmist's hope was not for some temporal fold to which the shepherd would take the sheep, but "the house of the Lord." This was not the temple in Jerusalem, but God's eternal house. The Lord's "goodness and mercy" (loving kindness) would guard him like sheep dogs until the journey was over. As believers, we are going home! It is a home provided by the Lord. Come what may, the Christian has the prospect of dwelling in the house of the Lord forever.

Life and Work Lesson

Martyr Or Savior?

By Bill Duncan, Long Beach, First
John 18:14

As we study the next three lessons from John, our hearts should be filled with gratitude, wonder, and praise. The last few days of the life of Jesus Christ relate the details of His arrest, trial, mockery and death. This reveals what might be expected to happen to His followers. The servant is no greater than his master.

John gives a simple, factual account of what occurred. The arrest must have been a very humiliating experience. If it is hard for us to accept, how hard it must have been for God. His betrayal to the officers of the law was by one of His chosen men — the crowning humiliation of all. But look at the composure of our Lord. Clearly He was in charge. Jesus permitted Himself to be arrested and arraigned like a common criminal.

Was Jesus a martyr? Yes, if you believe that He died for a cause and did not desert or deny His cause. In my lifetime, I have seen so many die needlessly. There have been those who had great courage and devotion. These have inspired us to loyalty for the best.

Jesus Christ was more than a martyr. He died for a cause — the salvation of all men. As the Savior of the world, He died in our place. But we worship Him as Lord. His death was more than a simple martyrdom. The

death of Jesus Christ was crucial to the whole creation. Christ's death was not only the most selfless of all deaths, it was all inclusive — "He died for all."

The Betrayal

Although Jesus knew He was on the verge of betrayal, He continued doing the usual things. When He had completed His teaching, He took His disciples with Him and went to a garden for rest and prayer.

What was the motive of Judas for betraying Jesus? It is suggested that the motive was a monetary gain. John says he was a thief (12:6). For a double handful of money, he betrayed Jesus into the hands of the enemy.

Why was Judas' betrayal so important? The Jewish authorities were fearful of the popularity that Jesus had so they hoped to arrest Him in an isolated place away from the crowds. Judas had to help the authorities arrest Jesus without a fight. However, the authorities brought an armed force. John said a company of soldiers, the temple police, and Pharisees came with lanterns, torches and weapons.

They felt that they needed an army to reduce Him to submission and to ensure His capture.

The Trials

The examination before Annas was a mockery of justice. Annas was the notorious former high priest whose

family members had bribed themselves into office, while Annas remained the power behind the throne. Jesus had hurt Annas with the work of clearing the temple. Annas wanted to be the first to gloat over the capture of Jesus. Annas violated the principles of Jewish justice when he questioned Jesus.

Jesus never had any hope of justice. The self-interest of Annas and his colleagues had been touched; and Jesus was condemned before He was tried. When a person is determined to eliminate someone the rules do not count.

Caiphas was the son-in-law of Annas. He tried to trap Jesus into admitting wrongdoing of one kind or another. But Jesus gave the clear answers that He had operated in the open and had nothing to hide. For His frankness, He was abused by an officer who struck Him. The rulers knew in their hearts He had done no wrong but this did not check their aim to destroy Him.

Conclusion

Jesus gave His life in a free act to demonstrate His power and love. He accepted His Father's purpose to redeem men. By offering His life He showed greater power than those who opposed Him by arresting Him. Jesus was no martyr whose life was taken against His will, but the Savior who voluntarily laid down His life for others.

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